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# Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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| In the Matter of<br>Streamlining the Commission's Antenna<br>Structure Clearance Procedure                              | FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY  ) |
|---|--|
| and   | ) WT Docket No. 95-5                                     |
| Revision of Part 17 of the Commission's<br>Rules Concerning Construction, Marking<br>and Lighting of Antenna Structures | )<br>)<br>)  |

# REPLY COMMENTS OF NYNEX MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

NYNEX Mobile Communications Company ("NMCC") hereby submits these Reply Comments in response to comments that were filed in response to the Commission's January 20, 1995 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Notice") in the proceeding captioned above.

#### I. <u>INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY</u>

In the Notice, the Commission proposes to revise its rules governing the construction, marking and lighting of antenna structures<sup>1</sup> and to streamline its antenna structure clearance process.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, the Commission proposes to implement a uniform registration process whereby the owner of the antenna structure, rather than each non-owner licensee or permittee on the tower, is primarily responsible for the operation

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Id. at ¶ 7, 21.

and maintenance of the structure. In these Reply Comments, NMCC generally agrees with the majority of commenters that support the FCC's goal to ensure that antenna tower structures do not present a hazard to air traffic safety and its proposal to move toward a unified registration process for all communications towers.<sup>3</sup> We believe, as do these parties, that the Commission's proposal will serve the public interest, as it provides an added measure of safety for our air traffic systems. We also support the majority view that primary responsibility for registering and maintaining towers, including ensuring proper lighting and marking, should be placed on the tower owner or its designee, instead of on mere tenants.<sup>4</sup> The comments persuasively argue that the Commission's public safety objectives are best served when tower owners, the parties with access to and ability to control architectural plans, are deemed responsible for compliance with these important safety obligations.

NMCC also believes that the Commission's public safety objectives must compliment its goal to promote the efficient provision of service to the public. To this end, we support a unified registration requirement for towers subject to Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") approval. The Commission's role should be to register FAA-approved towers. We believe, however, that the decision on whether non-safety impacting towers should be registered is best left to a future date, after the Commission has had an opportunity to analyze how the process works for towers located in critical

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flight paths. In this way, both the public safety goal of ensuring safe airways, and the public interest goal of rapid deployment of wireless services will be accomplished.

Indeed, we believe that the Commission should take additional steps to ensure that its tower registration rules do not hamper the deployment of wireless services. For example, in order to eliminate unnecessary filing burdens, tower registration should be limited to only those towers that require FAA approval. To the extent that the FAA makes a determination that a tower must be marked and lit, that tower should be registered with the Commission and documentation maintained in the Commission's central database. NMCC agrees with commenters, such as PCIA, APC and Sprint, who believe a registration requirement that includes all tower structures, is unnecessarily burdensome at this time. As APC correctly points out, this is particularly troublesome for PCS providers who are attempting to build out large systems in a short period of time. To require that all towers be registered with the Commission, regardless of height or location, would place an unnecessary strain on applicants who would be required to provide the data, and on the Commission who would be responsible for maintaining it.

If the FCC, nonetheless, believes that the registration of all towers is warranted, it should consider Sprint's proposal to phase-in such a requirement in over time. That is, the FCC should require applicants to register those towers needing FAA approval first, and sometime in the future expand the requirement to all remaining towers.<sup>7</sup>

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### II. THE FCC SHOULD ISSUE REGISTRATION NUMBERS TO FAA-APPROVED TOWERS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

In its comments, GTE proposed that the Commission's tower registration rules should be modified to require applicants to file identical documentation with the FCC and FAA. NYNEX supports the GTE proposal for several reasons. First, instead of requiring applicants to file different documentation for each agency and to engage in sequential approval proceedings, GTE's proposal would require applicants to prepare only one set of documents, thus, eliminating duplicative paperwork and ensuring that consistent information is provided to both agencies. Moreover, since it avoids a sequential two-step review and approval process involving two different agencies, the GTE proposal promises to eliminate potential cell site construction delays. In addition, since this approach continues to rely on the FAA in its role as the agency chiefly responsible for policing air safety requirements, GTE's proposed alternative methodology would ensure that the public interest in securing air safety is satisfied.

## III. THE COMMENTS SHOW THAT THE FCC SHOULD MAKE AN ON-LINE DATABASE AVAILABLE

NYNEX believes, as do many commenters, that the use of an on-line database provides a simple, efficient and effective mechanism for providing access to critical air safety information. Moreover, utilizing an on-line database is more efficient and simpler

Under the approach proposed by GTE, antenna structures would be subject to FAA review prior to construction. The FAA would review the data to determine whether the tower complies with its requirements. Applicants would use documentation identical to that filed with the FAA for purposes of registration with the FCC. The FCC would permit its licensees to construct FAA-approved structures without awaiting a second approval from the Commission. GTE at 2-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> GTE at 18, AT&T at 7, Pac Bell at 2, Sprint at 3, AMTA at 7, Dutch Hill at 1, Cap. Cities at 12.

to administer than a manual process that is likely to require that large volumes of files be maintained.<sup>10</sup>

Many commenters argue that the parties who wish to review information contained in the database should be charged a fee for their access to the database. We agree. This approach, rather than charging a registration fee to the tower owners or their delegated parties who simply supply the required information, is more equitable in that it would recover the cost of maintaining the system from parties who benefit from the use of the data.

# IV. TOWER REGISTRANTS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO FILE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY

Southwestern Bell argues that the Commission should continue to permit parties to file registration documentation manually, while offering parties the option of filing registration documents electronically. We support this approach. Electronic filings should be encouraged by the FCC as a way to reduce paperwork and processing time. Nonetheless, the Commission's permissible filing methodologies should accommodate the varying nature of tower owners. Some tower owners will have ready access to electronic filing capabilities. However, for others -- many of whom may be small or new businesses -- requiring electronic filing would impose an undue financial burden. Thus, the use of manual filings should continue to be permitted by the FCC.

<sup>10 &</sup>lt;u>Id</u>.

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Comments filed by SWB at 5-6.

<sup>12</sup> SWB at 6.

## V. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

The Commission should adopt its tower registration proposals, modified as NYNEX suggests herein.

Respectfully submitted,

NYNEX Mobile

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Dated: April 20, 1995

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing REPLY COMMENTS OF NYNEX MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, was served by first class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on each of the parties indicated on the attached service list, this 20th day of April, 1995.



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By: /s/ Jacqueline E. Holmes Nethersole
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Dated: April 20, 1995

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